



New Model for Economic Advancement

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

2nd Floor Conference Room

Today, I am announcing that the Arizona Department of Commerce is being replaced.

It is being replaced by an authority governed by a private-sector led "Economic Advancement Board."

It is an Authority dedicated to growing and diversifying our economy – creating and attracting more quality jobs for Arizonans.

Its 15 member board will be mostly comprised of Arizona business and community leaders.

The Governor of this State – now and in the future - MUST be engaged, and so, the Governor will be the chair.

The Senate President and House Speaker will be ex-officio members – because our policy-makers must be aware of the State's business needs.

In my State of the State address in January, I said as long as I am Governor, the sign out front will always read ARIZONA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
I meant it.

I meant it when I said I was creating a Commerce Advisory Council – a small group of top CEOs from across the State, led by Jerry Colangelo, working with Commerce's Don Cardon to identify what structure will best serve the State in economic development for the long-term.

We have a comprehensive approach – one yielding Focused Priorities -- Focused Investment – and Focused Industry Efforts.

So, today, I am introducing a 21st Century approach to advance Arizona's economy.

This is not going to be another one of those grandiose plans – that end up unfunded, unread, collecting dust on a shelf some where.

NOT this time – NOT on my watch.

Part of that long-time problem is that revolving door on the Commerce Director's office – consider it gone.

We're going to hire a CEO to lead this new economic development authority – and we're going to give them a contract. We must invest in leadership necessary to advance.

This new authority will focus on targeted industries – such as solar, science, technology and aerospace and defense.
It will help Arizona entrepreneurs achieve great success – to grow here at home and create more jobs.

To our neighbors, I say, LOOK OUT – we're coming after your companies who want a better place to live – a better operating environment – a better place to grow – one that is stable, predictable – and reliable.

Arizona is going to be ever more aggressive and ever more competitive.

This new authority is what Arizona has been missing. It streamlines our efforts, makes them more efficient and prepares Arizona for the future and our critical economic advancement.

And now, I will let Roy Vallee, Don Cardon and Sara Dial fill you in on some of the details and background ...